

F. H. H. H.

BOROUGH OF HASLINGDEN



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Chief Public Health Inspector

1956



RECEIVED
OCT 5 1956
HASLINGDEN

H E A L T H C O M M I T T E E

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
COUNCILLOR W. J. EVERETT, J.P. C.C.

ALDERMAN T. BROWN (Chairman)
COUNCILLOR J. W. HOLGATE (Vice-Chairman)

Alderman W. Boyson M.B.E., J.P.	Councillor A. Bussey
Councillor W. J. Everett, C.C.	Councillor Mrs. G.M. Warburton C.C.
Councillor J. Walsh	Councillor Mrs. E. Margerison
Councillor T. Waller	Councillor B. Molloy
Councillor H. Gorton ⊕	Councillor Mrs. E. Kirkman
Councillor W. Kirby *	

⊕ Member of the Committee to May, 1956
* Member of the Committee from May, 1956

S T A F F

Town Clerk
L. M. BURTON

Medical Officer of Health
C. H. T. WADE, M.D., Ch.B., B.Sc., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector
W. DAWSON, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.M.Inst.P.C.

Additional Public Health Inspector
D. J. HUNT, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Public Health Clerks
H. Camm
G.C. Laporte, (Miss)

OFFICES:

Public Health Office, Blackburn Road, Haslingden

August, 1957

To the Mayor and Members of the Haslingden
Borough Council

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for the year 1956, on the health and sanitary conditions of the district.

The Registrar General has estimated the population as 14,210, this shows a reduction of 40 from that of 1955. The adjusted* birth rate was 17.3 and the adjusted death rate 15.3 per 1000 of the population. The corresponding rates for England & Wales were 15.7 and 11.7 respectively. There were seven deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infant mortality rate of 31 per 1000 live births compared with the national rate of 23.8. For the ninth successive year there were no maternal deaths.

Infectious disease, apart from tuberculosis, was mainly confined to whooping cough and measles, these figures being very much lower than last year. There were thirteen cases of dysentery, five of scarlet fever, two of puerperal pyrexia and one of erysipelas. There were no cases of poliomyelitis or food poisoning notified, and, for the tenth year in succession, there were no cases of diphtheria.

Under a scheme arranged by the County Council and commenced last year, children in certain age groups were inoculated against poliomyelitis.

A Mass Miniature Radiography Survey was made in September and October. There was a good response and 6,199 persons were x-rayed. Details of the findings are given in the text of the report. It is five years since this Service last operated in the town when over 4,000 persons were examined.

During 1956 eighteen cases of respiratory tuberculosis were notified, and one of non-respiratory tuberculosis. This unusually large number was due to the discovery of new cases by the Mass Radiography unit and a special investigation following the discovery of an infectious case at a large school in the district.

Forty two houses were represented as unfit for human habitation and dealt with as Clearance Areas. Ten other houses were dealt with by demolition procedure.

Fifty five new houses were erected by the Council and three by other bodies. At the end of the year there were 378 applicants for Council houses on the register.

I tender my grateful thanks to the Members of the Council and staff for their continued advice and assistance during the year.

I am,

Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.H.T. WADE

Medical Officer of Health.

* Adjusted means corrected to a standard population for the purpose of comparison with other districts.

SECTION ASTATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Area in acres	8,195
Population (census 1951)	14,505
Registrar-General's estimate of mid-year population for 1956 .	14,210
Number of inhabited houses (census 1931)	4,856
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1956, according to Rate Books)	5,537
Rateable Value	£140,041
Sum represented by a penny rate	£555

POPULATION:

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population for 1956 is 14,210, which is slightly less than the 1955 figure of 14,250. The 1951 census population was 14,505.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	110	7	117
Female	<u>103</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>111</u>
	<u>213</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>228</u>

STILL BIRTHS:

Male	1	-	1
Female	<u>2</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2</u>
	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>

Total Registered Births for 1956 ... 231
 Total Registered Births for 1955 ... 226

TOTAL REGISTERED DEATHS:

								Male	Female	Total
For 1956	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	115	104	219
For 1955	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	111	114	225

TOTAL DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR:

For 1956						Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	..	..	..	..	..	4	-	4
Female	..	..	..	..	..	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>
						<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>

For 1955						Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	..	..	..	..	..	3	-	3
Female	..	..	..	..	..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
						<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3</u>

DEATH OF INFANTS UNDER 4 WEEKS OF AGE:

For 1956						Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	..	..	..	..	..	3	-	3
Female	..	..	..	..	..	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
						<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>

For 1955						Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total
Male	..	..	..	..	..	1	-	1
Female	..	..	..	..	..	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
						<u>1</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1</u>

There were seven deaths of infants under one year of age, five of which occurred in the first four weeks of life.

A list of the ages and sex, and the causes of death of the seven infants is appended herewith.

SEX	AGE	CAUSE OF DEATH	PLACE OF DEATH
Female	1 week	1a Congenital heart malformation	Home
Male	1 month	1a Meconium peritonitis b Fibrocystic disease of the pancreas	Hospital
Female	6 months	Septicaemia due to extensive infantile eczema. Natural causes	Hospital
Male	1 day	1a Atelectasis (Pulm.)	Hospital
Female	3 weeks	1a Pneumococcal meningitis	Hospital
Male	1 day	1a Anoxia b Prematurity	Hospital
Male	1 day	1a Anoxia b Prematurity	Hospital

TABLE I

	Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			Pulmonary Tuberculosis		
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	No.	Rate	Total	Neo-natal		No.	Rate	
									No.	Rate	No.			Rate
Year 1956	228	16.0*	219	15.4*	3	13	Nil	Nil	7	31	5	22	2	0.14
Year 1955	222	15.6	225	15.8	4	18	Nil	Nil	3	14	1	5	2	0.14
" 1954	209	14.7	203	14.2	4	19	Nil	Nil	2	10	2	10	2	0.14
" 1953	217	15.2	193	13.5	6	27	Nil	Nil	9	41	7	32	1	0.07
" 1952	196	13.7	226	15.8	6	30	Nil	Nil	5	26	2	10	4	0.28
" 1951	204	14.2	254	17.6	6	29	Nil	Nil	4	20	Nil	Nil	5	0.35
Average 5 years - 1951-1955	-	14.7	-	15.4	-	25	-	Nil	-	22	-	11	-	0.20

* Adjusted - Live Birth-rate (comparability factor, 1.08) = 17.3 per 1,000

Death-rate (comparability factor, 0.99) = 15.3 per 1,000

As in previous years heart disease is again responsible for the greatest number of deaths, 82 being certified as due to this cause.

There were six deaths from lung cancer, five males and one female. In 1955 four deaths, all males, were recorded.

Details of the principal causes of death during 1956 are given in Table II below.

TABLE II

PRINCIPAL CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1956

<u>Cause of Death</u>	<u>Number of Deaths</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	2
Tuberculosis, other forms	-
Syphilitic diseases	-
Diphtheria	-
Whooping Cough	-
Meningococcal Infections	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Measles	-
Other infective and parasitic disease	-
Cancer, malignant disease, all forms	33
Leukaemia	1
Diabetes	2
Vascular lesions of the nervous system	42
Heart disease	82
Other circulatory disease	5
Influenza	-
Pneumonia	5
Bronchitis	8
Other diseases of the respiratory system	1
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	2
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-
Congenital malformations	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	17
Motor vehicle accidents	5
All other accidents	5
Suicide	3
Homicide and operations of war	-
	<hr/>
	219
	<hr/>

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Under the National Health Service Act the County Council is responsible for the health services under that Act.

The examination of pathological specimens and milk and water samples is undertaken without charge by the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital Manchester.

The following matters are the responsibility of the Borough Council:- The control of infectious disease; provision of suitable water supplies; control of cleansing and disposal of refuse; inspection of all food and food-preparing premises; sampling of foodstuffs (milk, ice-cream, etc.) for bacteriological examination; sanitary accommodation to houses, factories, shops and other premises; inspection of houses with regard to fitness for human habitation; nuisances and defects; rodent control; offensive trades; smoke abatement; and many other matters concerned with environmental health.

Hospital facilities are now under the Regional Board and Management Committees and patients are admitted without regard to local boundaries.

Ambulance, District Nursing, Midwifery and Maternity and Child Welfare Services are provided by the County Council and administered under the Divisional Health Service Scheme.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS

AND OTHER DISEASES

INFECTIOUS DISEASE:

Cases of Infectious Disease are treated without charge at the infectious disease hospital and similarly pathological examinations are made without charge at the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

The National Health Service Act requires that copies of all notifications of infectious disease must be forwarded without delay to the County Medical Officer. In practice these notifications are sent to the Divisional Medical Officer so that he may correlate action within the health division and to enable the Divisional Committee to gain a regular knowledge of the incidence of infectious disease throughout their area.

Diphtheria immunisation is now the responsibility of the County Council but close co-operation between the Borough Council and the County Council is maintained particularly for propaganda purposes. During the year, 184 children under five years of age were immunised and 6 between the ages of 5 and 14.

In addition to the above, 105 children received a reinforcement injection during 1956.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO HAD COMPLETED A COURSE
OF PRIMARY IMMUNISATION AT ANY TIME UP TO 31/12/56

Age at 31/12/56 i.e. born in year	under 1 1956	1-4 1952-1955	5-9 1947-1951	10-14 1942-1946	Total under 15
Number Immunised	73	577	844	699	2193

TABLE III

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis)
RECEIVED DURING THE YEAR 1956

"Notifiable" Diseases	Total Cases at all Ages	Total Cases Notified								Total Deaths	
		Years									
		un- der 1	1 to 2	3 to 4	5 to 9	10 to 14	15 to 24	25 to 64	64 and over		Age un- known
Scarlet Fever	5	-	-	2	3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	10	-	2	3	5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	38	3	11	11	12	-	1	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	13	-	4	4	1	2	-	4	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals	69	3	17	16	21	2	2	5	1	2	-

TABLE IV

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE TREATED
IN HOSPITAL DURING 1956

CASES	DISEASE			
	Scarlet Fever	Pneu- monia	Whoop- ing Cough	Dysen- tery
In Hospital at beginning of year .	-	-	-	-
Admitted during the year	3	-	-	-
Discharged during the year	3	-	-	-
Died in Hospital	-	-	-	-
Remaining in Hospital at end of the year	-	-	-	-

BACTERIOLOGICAL AND PATHOLOGICAL EXAMINATION:

Table V shows the results of bacteriological examinations made during the year.

TABLE V

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS DURING 1956

Particulars of Examination	Positive	Negative	Total
Diphtheria Throat Swabs	-	-	-
Other Examinations:-			
Salmonella) Dysentery)	7	25	32
Others	7	13	20

TUBERCULOSIS:

Each case of tuberculosis is visited by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor of the Lancashire County Council as soon as possible after receipt of notification. Seventy seven cases were visited during the year, the number of visits paid being 467. Where desirable, Sanatorium or Hospital treatment is arranged after consultation between the Chest Physician and the Medical Practitioner concerned.

At the beginning of the year there were 76 cases of tuberculosis on the register, 19 cases were added and 9 cases taken off the register, leaving a total of 86 cases on the register at the end of the year.

The examination of sputum for the presence of tubercle bacilli is carried out at the Blackburn Royal Infirmary. Of 73 such specimens examined during 1956, 6 were positive and 67 negative.

In no instance has there been any wilful neglect or refusal to notify; the notification of tuberculosis in this district being satisfactory.

There does not appear to be any excessive incidence of, or mortality from tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

It has not been necessary to take action during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under the Public Health Acts relating to the compulsory removal to a hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

Table VI gives particulars of disinfection during the year.

TABLE VI
DISINFECTION DURING 1956

Disease, etc.	Number of Rooms	Number of Articles
Tuberculosis	26	118
Other causes	-	9

(Number of Houses - 13)

Room fumigation for diseases other than tuberculosis and smallpox is no longer recommended. Experience has shown that thorough cleansing with soap, water and disinfectant together with efficient ventilation of the rooms is adequate.

Infection, in the cases of diseases like scarlet fever and diphtheria, is nearly always due to personal contact or to the infection of food and drink.

Table VII gives the age of the cases of tuberculosis notified and deaths from the disease during 1956.

TABLE VII

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1956

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non- Respiratory		Respiratory		Non- Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Years								
0-1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1-5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5-10	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
10-15	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
15-20	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-35	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35-45	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and up- wards	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
	10	8	1	-	1	1	-	-
	18		1		2		-	

N.B. Primary notifications only included in the above table.

TABLE VIIa

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

I am indebted to Dr. Capper and the Staff of No. 1 Mass Radiography Unit for the following information:-

	<u>MALES</u>	<u>FEMALES</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>Number of people x-rayed</u>	3,032	3,167	6,199
<u>Abnormalities discovered after large film:</u>			
Pneumonitis	1	3	4
Bronchiectasis	3	1	4
Benign tumours of the lungs	2	2	4
Carcinoma of lungs	2	2	4
Sarcoidosis	1	-	1
Abnormalities of diaphragm	1	2	3
Cardic vascular lesions Acquired	6	5	11
Pneumoconiosis + Tuberculosis	1	-	1
Tuberculosis presumed healed	9	6	15
Suspected tuberculosis not yet confirmed	1	3	4
Tuberculosis requiring occasional supervision	3	3	6
Tuberculosis requiring close clinic supervision.	3	2	5
Tuberculosis requiring immediate treatment	5	3	8
Suspected tuberculosis but failed to attend			
Chest Clinic	1	-	1

This survey was very successful. During the last survey in 1951 4,373 people were x-rayed and in the same number of weeks last year 6,199 were x-rayed, so the response was considerably better.

SECTION D

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

August 1957

REPORT OF THE CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my tenth Annual Report on the sanitary conditions in the area and the progress recorded in 1956.

The report deals in some little detail with all the services which come under the heading of environmental hygiene and are under the control of this department. Some of these are not at the present time much within the public eye, but must necessarily receive constant attention so that the public health service is not undermined by failure in one or other of its many branches.

As was the case last year, matters very much to the fore are those connected with housing, food supply and hygiene, and clean air, and recent legislation has underlined their relative importance.

In Haslingden, the housing problem and in particular the problem of dealing with a considerable number of old and badly planned houses, is one of first class importance. The scheme, approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government last year, for dealing with 382 unfit houses in ten years, has been commenced and is being pursued energetically. The first year's programme saw 50 houses confirmed as unfit and scheduled for demolition, and one house closed for human habitation. An important part of Clearance work is rehousing and in this respect the Council are building 30 houses and another 40 are planned.

Demolition of houses and the rehousing of tenants is the only method of dealing with badly planned, badly sited, old and defective houses, but certain types of our older houses can be dealt with by reconditioning. The Council has acquired 14 such houses to be dealt in this manner, and is to proceed with the work of reconditioning and modernisation.

Progress in the Borough with regard to the protection of food has been remarkably good. The text of the report lists many of the visible improvements in the form of additional facilities and equipment, but perhaps more important is the way in which the Food Hygiene Regulations have been received by people employed in the food trade. In almost every instance there has been willing co-operation in the operation of the new regulations. Many improvements are there to be seen by the customer, but many more have been made in the preparing and store rooms not usually seen by the public. Legislation alone will never give us a clean and wholesome food supply, but where employees and management whole-heartedly enter into the spirit of the clean food campaign, first class results are certain.

With regard to Clean Air, there is much to be done in this field, but new legislation has opened up possibilities of a great reduction in smoke pollution. The next few years will undoubtedly see steps taken to reduce very much the emission of industrial and domestic smoke.

Meat and food inspection has again received the closest attention and there has been considerable activity at the one slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough. Meat coming into the town from other areas has also received inspectorial attention. It is pleasing to record the very good standard of meat that has been available in the town throughout the year.

The appointment of an additional public health inspector in January has made it possible to carry out effectively the extensive work required for housing clearance schemes and for food hygiene, in addition to the usual public health responsibilities.

My appreciation and thanks are due to all Members and Officials of the Council for their interest, encouragement and valuable assistance, to an efficient and loyal staff and to all employees of the department for their ungrudging service throughout the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. DAWSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

WATER:

The water supply of Haslingden is obtained mainly from the Irwell Valley Water Board, with a small number of houses in the Rising Bridge/Stonefold area being supplied by the Accrington and District Water Board, and the remainder - some 300 houses and farms, by springs and wells. Approximately 5,300 houses are supplied by the two Water Boards. The percentage of houses supplied from private sources such as springs and wells is approximately 5.4. In all cases the water supply by the two Water Boards is direct to taps in the consumers houses, neither of the Boards deliver water by stand pipe.

Rather more than half the houses in the Borough are now fitted with baths.

Extensions of 2,063 yards to the existing mains of the Irwell Valley Water Board were laid during the year for the purposes of new housing development, new services to existing property and renewal of old mains.

The water supplied in this area is now treated with lime for plumbo-solvency and the results of such treatment is satisfactory. Lime treatment of the water is applied at the reservoirs.

In 1946 fifty-seven bacteriological samples and eleven chemical samples were taken of raw water to determine degree of treatment required. One hundred and sixty seven bacteriological samples and twenty-three chemical samples were taken of water going into supply. These were satisfactory. All water is chlorinated at the source.

Forty-six samples of water from private supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. Fourteen were satisfactory, whilst thirty-two were below standard.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE:

The sewage disposal works are under the control of a Joint Board and deal with the sewage of the three Rossendale Valley Towns, Bacup, Haslingden and Rawtenstall. The plant is situated at the lowest point in the area, and the method of treatment is precipitation and filtration with outfall into the River Irwell.

There are still a number of houses not connected to public sewers, but these are mostly in outlying districts and farms.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION:

The figures below show the closet accommodation of the Borough at the end of the year.

1. Number of pail closets	140
2. Number of waste-water closets	2189
3. Number of fresh-water closets	3114
4. Number of dry ashpits (excluding middens) ..	9
5. Number of movable ashbins	5421

There are still one hundred and forty pail closets in existence, mostly situated on the outskirts of the town, mainly remote from sewerage and mains water facilities.

Table VIII shows the particulars of conversions during 1956.

TABLE VIII
C O N V E R S I O N S

No. of pail closets to fresh water closets	Nil
No. of waste water closets to fresh water closets	34
No. of houses at which movable ashbins have been substituted for fixed receptacles	Nil

PUBLIC CLEANSING:

The vehicles used for public cleansing are as follows: two freighters used entirely on collection of household refuse. One freighter is used for the collection of nightsoil (in a special tank fitted to the wagon for that purpose) and for the collection of trade refuse, salvage and cover, etc.

Household refuse is collected bi-weekly and nightsoil weekly. All household refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the South Shore Tip. Nightsoil is discharged to the sewers by means of a special nightsoil chute.

Refuse disposal has now been carried out at South Shore since 1954, as part of a big scheme in that area. The scheme envisages a very large playing field only a few hundred yards from the centre of Haslingden. It is expected that it will take about 15 years from start to finish.

The refuse collection wagons have dealt with the following materials during the year:

	<u>Loads</u>							
Ashbin refuse	2436
Nightsoil	152
Salvage	5
Cover	69
Trade Refuse	188
Total	<u>2850</u>

The following shows particulars of the materials dealt with on the South Shore Tip:

	<u>Loads</u>							
Loads tipped by refuse wagons	2616
Sweepings from Borough Surveyor's Department	340
Loads tipped by private traders	412
Tip Cover	69
Total	<u>3437</u>

SALVAGE

The collection of waste paper salvage was increased during 1956, although the demand for this commodity diminished somewhat during the earlier part of the year, and as a result prices fell considerably. We were however, able to dispose of all salvage collected and the year's trading showed an increase over the preceding year.

Salvage collected and sold as follows:

	Tons Cwts. Qrs.		
Paper, cardboard, etc.	104	14	1
Rags		1	1
Metals	3	8	3
Total	108	4	1

Gross Value £772 11s. 9d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

Details of the inspection work carried out during 1956, are shown in Table IX.

TABLE IX

INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Housing - No. of houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects - 673.

No. of inspections made for the purpose	845
Meat and Food Inspections:-	
Food Inspection	361
Slaughter-houses	173
Butchers' Shops	48
Market	144
Farms	46
Milk Samples	44
Ice-cream Premises	3
Fried Fish Shops	8
Bakehouses	34
Restaurant Kitchens	92
Other Food Shops	112
Common Lodging Houses	2
Infectious disease and disinfection	48
Shops Act	130
Water Samples	55
Rodent Control	56
Outworkers	8
Pet Shops	3
Public Cleansing	355
Drains and Water Closets	112
Hen Pens and Piggeries	8
Miscellaneous	278
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	2965
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In Table X are given particulars of:

- (a) Notices served and complied with
- (b) Defects and nuisances found and remedied.

TABLE X

(a) NOTICES

	Served	Complied with
Formal notices	2	2
Informal notices	167	114

(b) NUISANCES AND DEFECTS

	Discovered	Abated
Dwellinghouses:		
Dampness	16	12
Defective ashbins and pails .. .	453	410
Defective waste water closets .. .	99	72
Defective fresh water closets .. .	14	14
Defective drains	87	84
Chimneys	2	2
Roofs	7	2
Eaves-gutters and R.W.F.P. . . .	6	4
Defective plaster	8	2
Others	120	101
Totals	812	703

SMOKE ABATEMENT:

14 routine observations of the emission of smoke from mill chimneys were taken during the year.

There were negotiations with three firms following black smoke emission. One firm (referred to last year) has now changed over from coal to oil firing.

SWIMMING BATHS:

The Corporation Swimming Baths provide one plunge bath, eight slipper baths with facilities for medicinal baths.

The water in the plunge bath is treated by filtration, chlorination and aeration under pressure and is chemically treated by sulphate of alumina and soda. The water is tested daily for pH value, for residual chlorine and for temperature. The pool capacity is approximately 76,000 gallons and there is complete turnover of the water each $3\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS:

There were no cases of bed bugs to be dealt with during the year.

CAMP SITES:

There have been no licenses issued by the local authority and no areas are used for camping purposes.

SCHOOLS:

The sanitary conditions in all the nine schools in the area are reasonably satisfactory. All are supplied with water from the town's mains.

RODENT CONTROL:

In April and October routine treatment of the Town's sewers for the destruction of rodents was carried out. One hundred and thirty five baits were laid and twenty seven complete takes were registered.

The highest incidence of infestation is around the Town Centre.

During the year, 23 private premises were dealt with for rodent infestations, all being of a minor character.

Including sewer treatment work and inspection and treatment of private premises, 56 visits were made in 1956. This figure does not include many routine inspections for the presence of rodents.

SHOPS AND OFFICES:

One hundred and thirty routine visits and inspections were made during 1956, of shops in the district. Seven informal notices were served as a result of certain defects found, and all were complied with. No action was found necessary with regard to offices.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES:

There is still one Common Lodging House in Haslingden, and this is situated in the Town Ward. The premises are visited from time to time and were found to be reasonably satisfactory both as to cleanliness and conduct.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951:

There are no premises in the town where rag flock is manufactured and so far as is known none is being sold or used.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937:

The following table shows inspection made for the purpose of provisions as to health.

TABLE XI

Premises	Number of			No. on Register
	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions	
Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	2	-	-	43
Factories not included in above in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	109	7	-	96
Other premises under the Act: (including works of building and engineering construction, but not outworkers premises) ..	-	-	-	-
Total	111	7	-	139

The following table gives the number of defects found and remedied during the year.

TABLE XII

Particulars	Found	Rem- edied	Refer'd by H.M. Inspec- tor	No. of Prose- cutions
Want of cleanliness	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors ..	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences:				
Insufficient	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective ..	7	4	5	-
Not separate for sexes . . .	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relat- ing to outwork)	4	4	1	-
Total	11	8	6	-

OUTWORKERS:

At the end of the year there were 16 outworkers on the register. Fourteen are engaged on work classified as textile weaving whilst two are engaged on wearing apparel and small metal work.

SECTION E

H O U S I N G

NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR:

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Flats</u>
(a) By the local authority	55	-
(b) By other local authorities	-	-
(c) By other bodies or persons	3	-

INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES:

Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	673
Number of inspections made for the above purpose	845
Dwelling houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit:	
(a) Number found during year	Nil
(b) Number (or estimated number) at end of year	370
Number of dwelling houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit	56

CLEARANCE AREAS:

Number of dwelling houses demolished during year:

(a) Unfit houses	Nil
(b) Other houses	Nil

Number of persons displaced	Nil
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HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS:

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Persons Displaced</u>
Houses demolished or closed during the year:		
Housing Act, 1936:		
Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (section 11)	9	7
Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force	-	-
Parts of building closed (section 12)	-	-

	<u>Houses</u>	<u>Persons displaced</u>
Housing Act, 1949:		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2)	-	-
Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1953:		
Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 10 (1) and 11 (2)	1	8
		<u>No. of Houses</u>

REPAIRS DURING YEAR:

Number of houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action by the local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts 54

Houses in which defects were remedied under the Public Health Acts, after service of formal notice:

- (a) By owners 2
 (b) By local authority in default of owner -

Houses in which defects were remedied under the Housing Act 1936 (Sections 9, 10, 11 and 16) after service of formal notice:

- (a) By owners Nil
 (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil

Housing Repairs and Rents Acts 1954:

Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5) Nil

UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT 1954):

Number of houses at end of year retained for temporary accommodation and approved for grant under Section 7 Nil
 Number of separate dwellings contained in above Nil
 Number of houses licensed for temporary accommodation (Section 6) Nil

HOUSING ACT 1949 - IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

Action during year	No. of Schemes	No. of dwelling houses affected
(a) Submitted by private individuals to Local Authority	56	56
(b) Approved by Local Authority	54	54
(c) Work completed	46	46
(d) Submitted by Local Authority to Ministry ..	2	16
(e) Finally approved by Ministry	2	16
(f) Work completed	-	-
(g) Additional separate dwellings included in (c) and (f) above	None	

OTHER ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE ACT:

One loan granted to a private individual for repairs to be effected at one house.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR (Housing Repairs & Rents Act 1954):

No applications were received for Certificates of Disrepair.

HOUSING CONDITIONS - GENERAL

It will be recalled that a scheme for dealing with unfit houses in the Borough was approved by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in January, 1956. The report showed that 382 houses were classified as unfit and that these were to be dealt with in ten years at a rate of approximately 40 per annum. The first steps to deal with this tremendous problem were taken in 1956, when 53 houses were officially dealt with - 42 by Clearance Scheme, 10 by Demolition procedure and one by Closing Order. Of these 53 houses, 51 were finally confirmed as unfit for human habitation and will eventually be demolished (with the exception of one which will be closed), when proper rehousing of the tenants has taken place. In this respect the Council are building 30 houses at the present time and a further 40 houses are planned.

In another sphere of housing activity, the Council has acquired a block of 14 older houses, and has considered a scheme for extensive re-conditioning and modernising, so that each house has hot water, bathroom, internal water closet and generally is brought up to a modern standard within the existing structure.

At the end of the year there were 378 applicants for Council houses. Despite new building and a considerable number of families rehoused in "re-lets", the number of families desiring modern housing still remains well above the 300 mark.

With regard to the construction of new Corporation houses the following were in hand at the end of the year:

- Scheme 15 - 11 houses at Broadway
- Scheme 16 - 6 houses at Top of Town
- Scheme 17 - 20 houses at Top of Town
- Scheme 18 - 4 flats at Broadway
- Scheme 19 - 30 houses at Broadway

The following were contemplated:

- Scheme 20 - 40 houses at Broadway

SECTION F

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK:

The duties of the local authority with regard to milk supply include the important work of supervising distribution, responsibility for water supply, sewage disposal and drainage at farms and the power to deal with prevention of infection from milk. Actual supervision of the production of milk on the farm is the duty of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Set out below are details of licences issued in the Borough and the samples taken.

At December 31st there were 46 Distributors of Milk on the register. These are in addition to farmers who retail their own milk.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS - (RAW MILK) (PASTEURISED AND STERILISED MILK):

The following hold licences under the Special Designations Regulations at the end of December:

- 43 Dealers' Licences for Sterilised Milk
- 6 Dealers' Licences for T.T. Milk
- 5 Dealers' Licences for Pasteurised Milk
- 1 Supplementary Licence for T.T. Milk
- 1 Supplementary Licence for Pasteurised Milk

EXAMINATION OF MILK SUPPLIES:

Milk samples are submitted for examination for tubercle bacilli; also for cleanliness as shown by the time taken to decolourise Methylene Blue. All samples examined for tubercle bacilli were found to be free from such infection. Of the 37 samples subjected to the Methylene Blue test 30 were satisfactory and 7 were classified as unsatisfactory. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food were informed of the latter, for action by their officers. Samples of pasteurised milk were submitted and these satisfied the Phosphatase and Methylene Blue tests. All producers of milk, where samples were taken by this Department, were notified by letter of the results of the tests.

Particulars of the bacteriological and biological examination during 1956 are given in Table XIII.

TABLE XIII

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK DURING 1956

Particulars of Examination	No. of Samples				
	Total	Neg- ative	Posi- tive	Satis- factory	Not Satis- factory
Biological for Tuberculosis .	33	33	-	-	-
Methylene Blue	37	-	-	30	7
Phosphatase	4	-	-	4	-

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOOD:

Frequent inspections are made at retailers shops (including butchers' shops) where foodstuffs are stored, exposed for sale, or in course of preparation for sale.

The number of visits paid for the purpose of meat and food inspection during the year was 534. Regular slaughtering is carried out at the one licensed slaughterhouse in the town. The carcass of each animal slaughtered is inspected at time of slaughter or within a short time following slaughter.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED WITHIN THE DISTRICT:

	Cattle exc. cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	218	-	-	1,332	24
Number inspected	218	-	-	1,332	24
All diseases except Tuberculosis:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	52	-	-	21	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	23.8%	-	-	1.6%	-
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	15	-	-	-	-
Percentage of number inspected affec- ted with Tuberculosis	6.8%	-	-	-	-

No. of carcasses found to be affected with cysticercus bovis - Nil

FOOD POISONING:

There were no notified cases of Food Poisoning during the year.

FOOD CONDEMNED:

The following foodstuffs were condemned as unfit for human consumption in 1956, and were dealt with as directed by statute.

Weight of Meat and Offal	1,189 lbs.
Tinned Meat	298 lbs.
Tinned Fruit	3 lbs.
Tinned Vegetables	17 lbs.
Tinned Milk	11 lbs.
Tinned Fish	5 lbs.

Total 1,522 lbs.

CONTAMINATION OF BOTTLES:

A matter causing great concern throughout the country to manufacturers of foodstuffs which are retailed in returnable bottles, is the growing number of cases of contamination of bottles by the consumer prior to returning them. Instances occurring in Haslingden have been thoroughly investigated this year, where the contents of bottles were affected.

The actual person causing the contamination can very rarely be traced and it is not by any means possible to be sure even of the exact locality.

The solution to this problem does not lie alone with the increased vigilance of the manufacturers, but also on the education of the public in the danger to health attached to this objectionable practice.

FOOD PREMISES:

The Food Hygiene Regulations came into force in January, 1956, and many of the food premises in the Borough have been inspected with the new provisions in mind, and traders advised accordingly. Three hundred and twenty one inspections were made at food premises, these including food shops, bakehouses, cafes, factory and school canteens. Informal notices were served where defects were recorded. A very good start was made on remedying the defects, and, in addition, much work was in hand at the end of the year.

The following table is a summary of the improvements that have been required at various premises, to bring them up to the standard required.

<u>Work Required</u>	<u>Number of premises involved</u>
Wash hand basins with hot and cold water	38
Sink with hot and cold water	9
Food protection, screening and food storage ..	36
Hot water supply	9
Cleanliness and decorating	9
Sanitary accommodation and drainage	6
Lighting and ventilation	6
Structural repair	8
Equipment repair and maintenance	4
Storage of refuse	2
Clothes, locker accommodation	6
First aid equipment	6

There are 221 food premises in the Borough to which these new Regulations apply.

BAKEHOUSES:

The number of bakehouses on the register at the end of 1956, was 32; many of these are small businesses.

PUBLIC HEALTH (SHELL FISH) REGULATIONS:

No action was taken under these regulations during the year.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD: CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION:

The administration of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, and regulations governing the adulteration of food, are under the control of the Lancashire County Council and their officers take samples in the district. The bacteriological examination of foodstuffs is dealt with by the Borough Council and samples are submitted for such examination to the Public Health Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Manchester.

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